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UNCLAS KATHMANDU 002169

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPAL: MAOISTS LAUNCH SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS ON  
DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, POLICE POST

[1](#)1. (U) At about midnight November 15, Maoist insurgents launched an attack on the headquarters in Jumla District in northwestern Nepal. Communications with the headquarters were cut immediately after the attack, and accurate information remains difficult to obtain. Initial reports indicate that four soldiers and 33 policemen, including the Deputy Superintendent of Police, were killed, and another 13 soldiers and 9 policemen wounded. A seven-man detachment from the National Intelligence Division (NID), as well as the Chief District Officer (CDO), have been reported missing. Local government buildings, including the office of the Chief District Officer (CDO), were reportedly burned or otherwise damaged. The Maoists succeeded in stealing nearly a third of the police's arsenal of weapons, as well as more than USD 45,000 in cash and gold from a local bank. There are no estimates of Maoist casualties.

[1](#)2. (SBU) According to an RNA source, the Maoists overran the 200-man police station, using 81 mm mortars and 2-inch mortars. Initial attempts by the Royal Nepal Army (RNA) to dispatch reinforcements to the site were unsuccessful, reportedly because of snowy weather conditions in the remote, mountainous district. RNA troops have since been sent to reinforce the garrison, and have begun cordon and search operations in the area to capture the attackers. The RNA source reported that some of the fleeing insurgents ran into an RNA blocking position, but had no figures on potential casualties from that encounter.

[1](#)3. (U) Also at midnight November 15, Maoist insurgents attacked a remote police post, located approximately 260 km by road from Jumla, in Tarkakot in Gorkha District in north-central Nepal. Of the 55 policemen on duty at the time of the attack, at least 23 were killed and 10 injured. Police Headquarters reported the attackers made off with nearly all of the weapons (.303 rifles) from the post.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Comment: Unlike earlier attacks on district headquarters in Achham (February) and Arghakhanchi (September), the Maoists this time failed to overrun the RNA position. These latest attacks on government forces belie Maoist rhetoric claiming the insurgents are ready for dialogue. Sources close to the Maoists report they feel they have the upper hand in the field. If the Maoists are indeed serious about negotiations--and many observers doubt that they are--they are hoping to negotiate from a position of strength.

MALINOWSKI